## In The Claims

1. (cancelled without prejudice)

2. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

a moldable sheath with sufficient moldability at body temperatures to at least temporarily retain a specific shape selectively imparted to it by a user by bending of the sheath along its length, which specific shape is held without continued inserted presence of a shaping tool in the sheath; and

a lumen defined in said moldable sheath.

3. (original) The apparatus of claim 2 further comprising a shaping tool for disposition in said lumen of said implanted sheath to impart said specific shape to said sheath.

4. (original) The apparatus of claim 3 where said shaping tool is separate from said sheath.

5. (original) The apparatus of claim 2 where said shaping tool is incorporated within said sheath.

6. (original) The apparatus of claim 2 further comprising a sealing valve coupled to said sheath to seal said lumen.

7. (cancelled without prejudice)

8. (original) The apparatus of claim 2 where said sheath has at least one portion with a stiffness different than remaining portions of said sheath.

9. (original) The apparatus of claim 2 where said sheath has at least one portion with a moldability different than remaining portions of said sheath.

10. (original) The apparatus of claim 2 where said sheath is deployed in a body cavity and has at least one portion with a moldability which can be altered at the time of implantation in said body cavity.

11 (original) The apparatus of claim 10 where said at least one portion has its moldability altered before said sheath is implanted into said body cavity.

12. (original) The apparatus of claim 10 where said at least one portion has its moldability altered after said sheath is implanted into said body cavity.

13. – 28. (cancelled without prejudice)

29. (allowed) An apparatus comprising:

a moldable sheath capable of at least temporarily retaining a specific shape selectively imparted to it by a user by bending of the sheath along its length; and

a shaping tool arranged and configured to be applied to said implanted sheath to impart said specific shape to said sheath while within said body cavity, which specific shape is held without continued inserted presence of said shaping tool in the sheath.

30. (allowed) The apparatus of claim 29 where said sheath is characterized by a sufficient moldability so that removal of said shaping tool does not result in any substantial displacement of said sheath from said specific shape.

31. (allowed) The apparatus of claim 29 where said sheath has a lumen and where said shaping tool applied to said sheath comprises an elongate shaping tool which is telescopically disposed within said lumen in said sheath.

32. (allowed) An apparatus comprising:

a moldable sheath capable of at least temporarily retaining a specific shape imparted to it; and

a shaping tool arranged and configured to be applied to said implanted sheath to impart said specific shape to said sheath while within said body cavity, which specific shape is held without continued assistance of said shaping tool,

where said shaping tool applied to said sheath comprises a shaping tool applied exteriorly to said sheath and imposing a shaping force thereon.

33. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 29 further comprising a medical instrument disposed into said body cavity through said sheath.

34. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 29 where medical instrument comprises a diagnostic instrument.

35. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 29 where said medical instrument comprises a therapeutic instrument.

36. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 29 where said medical instrument comprises a cardiac lead for disposition within the coronary sinus of a human heart.

37. (allowed) The apparatus of claim 29 where said moldable sheath has at least a portion of changed moldability relative to remaining portions of said sheath.

38. (allowed) The apparatus of claim 37 where said portion which changes its moldability while in said body cavity comprises at least a portion of said sheath having a moldability dependant on temperature in which said moldability of said sheath is changed while in said body cavity and exposed to a body cavity temperature elevated above ambient temperature.

39. (allowed) An apparatus comprising:

a moldable sheath capable of at least temporarily retaining a specific shape imparted to it; and

a shaping tool arranged and configured to be applied to said implanted sheath to impart said specific shape to said sheath while within said body cavity, which specific shape is held without continued assistance of said shaping tool,

where said moldable sheath has at least a portion of changed moldability relative to remaining portions of said sheath,

where said portion which changes its moldability while in said body cavity comprises at least a portion of said sheath having a moldability dependant on temperature in which said moldability of said sheath is changed while in said body cavity and exposed to a body cavity temperature elevated above ambient temperature, and

where said portion which changes its memory shape while in said body cavity comprises at least a portion having a moldability dependant on moisture in which said moldability of said sheath is changed while in said body cavity and exposed to moisture.

40. (allowed) The apparatus of claim 37 where said portion of changed moldability has its moldability changed by treating at least a portion of said sheath exterior to said body cavity prior to implanting.

41. (allowed) An apparatus comprising:

a moldable sheath capable of at least temporarily retaining a specific shape imparted to it; and

a shaping tool arranged and configured to be applied to said implanted sheath to impart said specific shape to said sheath while within said body cavity, which specific shape is held without continued assistance of said shaping tool,

where said moldable sheath has at least a portion of changed moldability relative to remaining portions of said sheath,

where said portion of changed moldability has its moldability changed by treating at least a portion of said sheath exterior to said body cavity prior to implanting, and

where said portion of changed moldability has its moldability changed by exposing at least a portion of said sheath to radiation.

42. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 40 where said portion of changed moldability has its moldability changed by exposing at least a portion of said sheath to a chemical treatment.

43. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 29 further comprising a reinforcement selectively disposed on or in said sheath so that a reinforced portion of said sheath has its stiffness increased relative to remaining portions of said sheath.

44. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 29 further comprising a reinforcement selectively disposed on or in said sheath so that a reinforced portion of said sheath has its ability to retain a specific shape enhanced relative to remaining portions of said sheath.

45. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 44 where said reinforcement comprises wires, fibers or braid disposed or on said sheath.

46. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 43 where said reinforcement comprises a braided reinforcement on or in said sheath.

47. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 43 where said reinforcement comprises fibers disposed on or in said sheath to provide kink resistance.

48. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 43 where said reinforcement comprises at least one layer of material at least partially concentrically disposed on or in said sheath.

49. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 48 where said at least one layer of material at least partially concentrically disposed on or in said sheath comprises at least one cylindrical layer telescopically disposed on or in said sheath.

50. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 48 where said sheath has a wall with a predetermined thickness and where said at least one layer of material at least partially concentrically disposed on or in said sheath comprises a thickening of said sheath wall.

51. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 48 where said one layer of material has a moldability different than said sheath.

52. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 48 where said one layer of material is not moldable like said sheath.

53. (allowed) An apparatus comprising:

a moldable sheath capable of at least temporarily retaining a specific shape imparted to it; and

a shaping tool arranged and configured to be applied to said implanted sheath to impart said specific shape to said sheath while within said body cavity, which specific shape is held without continued assistance of said shaping tool, where said moldable sheath has a tip portion and where said tip portion is substantially soft and ccmpliant without appreciable moldability.

54. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 29 where said moldable sheath is splittable, tearable, slittable or peelable.

55. (allowed) The apparatus of claim 29 where said moldable sheath is preshaped according to its intended application within said body cavity.

56. (allowed) The apparatus of claim 29 where said sheath has a proximal end and further comprising a sealing valve disposed on said proximal end.

57. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 56 where said sealing valve is splittable, tearable, slittable or peelable.

58. (allowed) The apparatus of claim 56 where said sealing valve is integral with said sheath.

59. (allowed) The apparatus of claim 56 where said sealing valve is separate from said sheath.

60. (allowed) The apparatus of claim 29 further comprising at least one wire disposed in said sheath and usable for deflecting and positioning said sheath.

61. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 29 further comprising at least one wire disposed in said sheath for providing an electrical conductor therein.

62. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 61 where said sheath has a distal end and further comprising a diagnostic or therapeutic device at or near said distal end and coupled to said conductor.

63. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 62 where said diagnostic or therapeutic device comprises an ultrasound imager.

64. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 29 further comprising a lumen defined in said sheath and at least one inflatable balloon disposed on said sheath coupled to said balloon.

65. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 64 where said balloon is removable from said sheath.

66. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 61 further comprising an electrode disposed on or in said sheath and coupled to said conductor.

67. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 29 further comprising at least one optic fiber disposed in said sheath for providing an optical conductor therein.

68. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 67 where said sheath has a distal end and further comprising a photonic device disposed in or near said distal end of said sheath and coupled to said optic fiber.

69. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 29 further comprising a lumen defined in said sheath and a vent communicated to said lumen so that fluid may be infused or suctioned therethrough.

70. (allowed) The apparatus of claim 29 where said shaping tool is steerable.

71. (allowed) The apparatus of claim 29 where said shaping tool comprises a guidewire.

72. (allowed) An apparatus comprising:

a moldable sheath capable of at least temporarily retaining a specific shape imparted to it; and

a shaping tool arranged and configured to be applied to said implanted sheath to impart said specific shape to said sheath while within said body cavity, which specific

shape is held without continued assistance of said shaping tool, where said shaping tool has a tip portion which is substantially soft and compliant without substantial moldability rendering it nontraumatic.

73. (allowed) An apparatus comprising:

a moldable sheath capable of at least temporarily retaining a specific shape imparted to it; and

a shaping tool arranged and configured to be applied to said implanted sheath to impart said specific shape to said sheath while within said body cavity, which specific shape is held without continued assistance of said shaping tool, where said shaping tool further comprises at least one lumen defined therethrough and a vent communicated with said lumen.

74. (allowed) An apparatus comprising:

a moldable sheath capable of at least temporarily retaining a specific shape imparted to it; and

a shaping tool arranged and configured to be applied to said implanted sheath to impart said specific shape to said sheath while within said body cavity, which specific shape is held without continued assistance of said shaping tool, where said shaping tool further comprises a lumen defined therethrough and at least one inflatable balloon communicated with said lumen.

75. (allowed) An apparatus comprising:

a moldable sheath capable of at least temporarily retaining a specific shape imparted to it; and

a shaping tool arranged and configured to be applied to said implanted sheath to impart said specific shape to said sheath while within said body cavity, which specific shape is held without continued assistance of said shaping tool, where said shaping tool further comprises a conductor disposed therethrough and an electrode coupled to said conductor for sensing or delivery of energy from said electrode.

76. (withdrawn) An apparatus comprising:

a peel-away sheath with sufficient flexibility to be selectively guideable; and

a steering or guiding tool to impart a selected shape to said sheath.

77. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 76 where said peel-away sheath is nonmoldable.

78. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 76 further comprising a proximal sealing valve coupled to said sheath.

79. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 76 further comprising a distal diagnotic or therapeutic device coupled to said sheath.

80. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 76 where said peel-away sheath separates along a longitudinally oriented score line defined in said peel-away sheath.

81. (withdrawn) An apparatus comprising:

a peel-away sheath with sufficient flexibility to be selectively guideable including an elongated flexible body having a proximal end and a distal end; and

a peel-away balloon mounted on said flexible body near said distal end thereof.

82. (withdrawn) An apparatus comprising:

a moldable, peel-away sheath with sufficient flexibility to be selectively guideable; and

a dilator telescopically disposable with said sheath so that said sheath may be vascularly implanted.

83. - 89. (cancelled without prejudice)

90. (allowed) An apparatus comprising:

a moldable sheath with sufficient moldability at body temperatures to at least temporarily retain a specific shape imparted to it; and

a lumen defined in said moldable sheath, where said sheath has at least one portion with a stiffness different than remaining portions of said sheath wherein the

sheath is comprised of a relatively stiffer proximal portion and relatively stiffer distal portion extending to a distal tip with a relatively less stiff intermediate portion therebetween.

91. (allowed) An apparatus comprising:

a moldable sheath with sufficient moldability at body temperatures to at least temporarily retain a specific shape imparted to it; and

a lumen defined in said moldable sheath, where said sheath has at least one portion with a moldability different than remaining portions of said sheath wherein the sheath is comprised of a relatively less moldable proximal portion and relatively less moldable distal portion extending to a distal tip with a relatively more moldable intermediate portion therebetween..

92. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 9 comprised of a nonmoldable resilient proximal portion and nonmoldable, resilient distal portion extending between 1 to 15 cm from a distal tip with a moldable intermediate portion therebetween.

93. (new)[1] A method of using a moldable sheath and using a shaping tool comprising:

providing a moldable sheath with sufficient moldability to at least temporarily retain a specific shape selectively imparted to it by a user by bending of the sheath along its length when implanted in a body cavity and by using the shaping tool which is

[1] Derived from claims 1 and 29.

arranged and configured to impart the specific shape to the sheath while within the body cavity, which specific shape is held;

implanting the sheath within a body cavity;

molding the implanted sheath to the specific shape, which specific shape is held without continued assistance of a shaping tool; and

utilizing the implanted sheath for a medical procedure.

94. (new)[2] A method of using a moldable sheath and using a shaping tool comprising:

providing a moldable sheath capable of at least temporarily retaining a specific shape imparted to it when implanted in a body cavity by a user by bending of the sheath along its length when implanted in a body cavity and by using the shaping tool which is arranged and configured to impart the specific shape to the sheath while within the body cavity, which specific shape is held;

implanting the sheath within a body cavity;

molding the implanted sheath to the specific shape while within the body cavity, which specific shape is held without continued assistance of a shaping tool; and

utilizing the implanted sheath for a medical procedure within the body cavity while the sheath is in the specific shape.

[2] Derived from claims 13 and 29.

95. (new) The method of claim 94 where molding the implanted sheath to a specific shape comprising applying a shaping tool to the sheath to induce the sheath to assume the specific shape.

96. (new) The method of claim 94 further comprising removing a shaping tool from the sheath when the sheath is characterized by a sufficient moldability so that removal of the shaping tool does not result in any substantial displacement of the sheath from the specific shape.

97. (new) The method of claim 95 where applying a shaping tool to the sheath comprises telescopically disposing the shaping tool within a lumen in the sheath.

98. (new) The method of claim 95 where applying a shaping tool to the sheath comprises manipulating the shaping tool to steer the sheath.

99. (new) The method of claim 95 where applying a shaping tool to the sheath comprises disposing the shaping tool exteriorly to the sheath and imposing a shaping force thereon.

100. (new) The method of claim 94 where utilizing the implanted sheath for a medical procedure comprises disposing a medical instrument in the body cavity.

101. (new) The method of claim 94 where utilizing the implanted sheath for a medical procedure comprises performing a diagnostic procedure within the body cavity.

102. (new) The method of claim 94 where utilizing the implanted sheath for a medical procedure comprises performing a therapeutic procedure within the body cavity.

103. (new) The method of claim 94 where utilizing the implanted sheath for a medical procedure comprises disposing a cardiac lead in the coronary sinus of a human heart.

104. (new) The method of claim 94 wherein the sheath has a moldability and further comprising changing the moldability of at least a portion of the sheath.

105. (new) The method of claim 94 where providing a moldable sheath comprises providing a sheath having a moldability dependant on temperature and where changing the moldability of the sheath while in the body cavity comprises exposing at least a portion of the sheath to a body cavity temperature elevated above ambient temperature.

106. (new) The method of claim 104 where providing a moldable sheath comprises providing a sheath having a moldability dependant on moisture and where changing the moldability of the sheath while in the body cavity comprises exposing at least a portion of the sheath to moisture.

107. (new) The method of claim 104 where changing the moldability of the sheath comprises causing a change of the moldability of the sheath by treating at least a portion of the sheath exterior to the body cavity prior to implanting.

108. (new) The method of claim 107 where treating the sheath exterior to the body cavity prior to implanting to change its moldability comprises exposing at least a portion of the sheath to radiation.

109. (new) The method of claim 107 where treating the sheath exterior to the body cavity prior to implanting to change its moldability comprises exposing at least a portion of the sheath to a chemical treatment.

110.[3] (new) An apparatus for use with an implanted sheath moldable into a specific shape comprising:

[3] Formerly claim 83.

a steerable, shaping tool arranged and configured to be applied to the implanted sheath to impart the specific shape to the sheath while within the body cavity, which specific shape is held without continued assistance of the shaping tool; and

a proximal steering handle coupled to the steerable, shaping tool.

111. (new) The apparatus of claim 110 wherein the steerable, shaping tool is characterized by a selectable shape and comprises at least one wire disposed in the steerable, shaping tool coupled to the proximal steering handle by which wire the shape of the steerable, shaping tool is controlled.

112. (new) The apparatus of claim 110 further comprising an inflatable balloon coupled to the steerable, shaping tool.

113. (new) The apparatus of claim 110 wherein the steerable, shaping tool is a steerable catheter.

114. (new) The apparatus of claim 113 wherein the steerable catheter further comprises at least one electrode.

115. (new) The apparatus of claim 113 wherein the steerable catheter further comprises at least one lumen and an communicating orifice allowing communication of fluid through the lumen and orifice.

116. (new) The apparatus of claim 113 further comprising an inflatable balloon coupled to the catheter.